GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2132
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
National Wetland Conservation Programme
Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) implemented in the country;

(b) the details of wetlands identified so far for conservation, management and intervention along with the criteria adopted for the same, State-wise;

(c) the role of the Union and State Governments/UT administrations along with the funding pattern under NWCP;

(d) the institutional framework put in place by the Government to oversee the implementation of the programme; and

(e) the funds allocated and released under the NWCP during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) The National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) has been merged in February, 2013 with another scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) to avoid overlap and promote better synergy into a new integrated scheme of National Programme for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-system (NPCA). NPCA aims at holistic conservation and restoration of wetlands and lakes for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and ecosystems through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach and a common regulatory framework.

(b) So far, 115 wetlands in 24 States and two Union Territories are identified for conservation and management under the NPCA/NWCP, while adopting the following criteria:
- sites containing representative, rare or unique wetland types;
- criteria based on species and ecological communities;
- specific criteria based on water birds;
- specific criteria based on fish; and
- specific criteria based on water/life and culture.

The State-wise list of identified wetlands under NPCA/NWCP is at Annexure-I.

(c) and (d) 100% Central financial assistance was provided to the State Governments for conservation of wetlands till the year 2012-13 for various activities like survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, de-silting & dredging, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, education & awareness and community participation, etc. The NPCA programme was operational on 70:30 cost sharing basis (90:10 for North Eastern States) between the Central and the State Governments during 2013-14 and 2014-15, 50:50 (80:20 for North Eastern and Himalayan States) during 2015-16, and has now been revised to 60:40 (90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States) for the current financial year 2016-17.

The State Governments undertake activities for conservation and management of wetlands funded under the scheme through its concerned agencies. The Ministry and the State Level Steering Committees monitor the implementation/execution of the programme. The Central Government of India has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 for regulating certain activities within wetlands. A Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority has also been constituted under the Wetland Rules.

(e) Details of funds released to the State Governments/Union Territories for conservation of wetlands during last three years and current financial year under the NPCA programme are given in Annexure-II.

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